

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The application has been amended to more clearly describe the present inventions. The pending and amended claims overcome the rejections of claims 1-3, 6-28, 31-45. Applicants appreciate the Office's indication that claims 4, 5, 29 and 30 are allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the feature of claim 4, claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form, claim 22 has been amended to recite the feature of claim 29, claim 30 has been re-written in independent form, claim 43 has been amended to recite the features of claims 4/29 and a new claim 47 has been added to recite the features of claims 5/30. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

PENDING REJECTIONS AND OBJECTIONS

Drawings

Fig. 3 stands objected as requiring a label of "Prior Art." A Replacement Sheet is being provided herewith.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action states that a number of elements could not be located within the specification of the application, including "an editable relationship," "a network graph," "a direct graph" or "graph. Although these terms were used in the original claims and thus are considered part of the original specification for purposes of support, Applicants have amended the detailed description portion of the specification to specifically recite these elements. Editable relationship has been placed in context. The terms "network graph," "direct graph" and "graph" are common ordinary mathematical terms for which no further definition is required for a person of ordinary skill in the art to understand them.

Claim objections

Claims 44-46 were objected to due to their having improper form. Claims 44-46 have been amended to recite a preamble of a machine-readable medium. Thus, this objection has been overcome.

Rejections based on section 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-46 stand rejected under section 112, second paragraph as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis. Although the basis of the rejection is confusing, amendments to the claims are believed to overcome the issue being raised by the examiner.

Similarly, the rejection as to claim 43 specifically has been addressed due to the amendment of the claim to recite code for performing acts by a machine.

Rejections under section 101

Claims 1-46 stand rejected under section 101 as being directed allegedly to non-statutory subject matter. Each of the claims has now been amended to recite a computer system (claims 1-21), a computer-implemented method (claims 22-42) or a machine-readable medium with code thereon (claims 43-47). Accordingly, this rejection is overcome.

Rejections based on alleged prior art

Applicants have amended each of the claims to recite one of the two features indicated by the Office Action to be allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, all rejections based on the allegedly admitted prior art and U.S. Patent No. 6,581,068 to Bensoussan et al. are respectfully mooted.

CONCLUSION

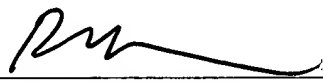
Since the cited references, taken either singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the combinations set forth in the pending claims, and further fail to provide any motivation or suggestion of the desirability of modifying the structures or methods to arrive at the claimed combinations, Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejections, allow the pending claims and pass the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 or §1.117 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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